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AFGHANISTAN

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FACT SHEET

Ambassador's Small Grants Program (ASGP) to Support Gender Equality in Afghanistan

OVERVIEW

Since July 2009, the Ambassador's Small Grants Program (ASGP) to Support Gender Equality has provided institutional capacity development and advocacy support to women-focused Afghan civil-society organizations (CSOs) via grants to improve gender equality, help women secure improved socioeconomic opportunities, and advocate for women's rights. ASGP works closely with the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) and Afghan CSOs in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan.

The goal of ASGP is to improve the status and quality of life of Afghan women and girls by strengthening the capacity of women-focused CSOs to contribute to the social, economic, and political development of women. Flexible, rapid-response grants enhance women's opportunities in capacity development, gender mainstreaming, advocacy, economic development, education and literacy, health, vocational training, and social and political participation.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- **Institutional capacity development:** Implement an institutional strengthening plan for larger CSO partners
- **Grants:** Fund quick impact grants, service delivery grants, advocacy coordination grants, and targeted sustainability grants
- **Advocacy:** Support the Afghan Women's Advocacy Coalition (AWAC), a platform for CSOs and individuals to work with MoWA for nationwide advocacy to improve women's and girls' access to education, women's access to justice, and women's political participation and leadership

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Awarded more than 1,000 grants totaling \$17.2 million to support women-focused civil-society groups in 34 provinces
- Registered 311 new organizations with Afghan Government institutions
- Conducted institutional and gender audits to assess organizational needs and provide ongoing technical support to more than 120 women-focused CSOs working nationwide
- Established and supported the AWAC, comprised of ASGP advocacy coordination grant recipients, individuals and other civil-society partners who are leading nationwide advocacy efforts and campaigns focusing on women's and girls' access to education, women's access to justice, and women's political participation and leadership
- Signed a memorandum of understanding between ASGP and the MoWA to strengthen the capacity of the ministry to advocate for gender equality, promote the development of AWAC, and oversee implementation of the National Action Plan for Women of Afghanistan
- Helped AWAC secure letters of commitment from 18 provincial governors to formalize their support for women's rights and the prevention of violence against women